

# Edea Falls

Chutes de la Sanaga (Test version)

**CMNTIPA052**



Country: **Cameroon**

Administrative region: **Littoral (Region)**

Central co-ordinates: **3.81223 N, 10.12943 E**

Area: **0.1km<sup>2</sup>**

## Qualifying IPA criteria

A(i)

## IPA assessment rationale

The site qualifies as a an IPA under criterion A(i), A(iii) and A(iv) due to the presence of two globally threatened (CR) which are narrowly endemic to the site.

## Site description

The waterfalls on the Sanaga at Edea are the surviving part of a formerly more impressive feature which has been exploited since the 1950s with a dam for a major hydro-electric power station...

## Botanical significance

Three Critically Endangered narrowly endemic rheophytes of the Podostemaceae family, *Zehnderia microgyna*, *Dicraeanthus zehnderi* and *Winklerella dichotoma* survive at the site next to the dam (Ghogue, 2010a, 2010b).

[Ghogue's IUCN assessment seems to suggest that *Ledermannia thalloidea* also occurs here but the only record is of a tributary of the Sanaga, 10 km north of Edea.

*Leiothylix quangensis*: "In Cameroon the plant is known from one site (Edea waterfall, two small populations; confirmation is needed that these populations still exist after the construction of the Edea dam) and the distribution in Angola and the DRC is not known".

## Habitat and geology

## Conservation issues

The three endemic species are reported to survive next to the dam in a reduced population, acutely vulnerable to extension or other disturbance related to the operation of the dam. The altered seasonal flows of the river, due to this dam but also those existing (the Lom-Pangar dam) and under construction (the Nachtigal hydro project) are also likely to impact the regeneration of these species which tend to require seasonal variation in water levels to flower and fruit.

## Site assessor(s)

Bruce Murphy, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

## IPA criterion A species

SPECIES	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 1% OF GLOBAL POPULATION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL POPULATION	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	ENTIRE GLOBAL POPULATION	SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT	ABUNDANCE AT SITE
<i>Winklerella dichotoma</i> Engl.	A(i), A(iii), A(iv)	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	
<i>Dicraeanthus zehnderi</i> H.Hess	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	
<i>Zehnderia microgyna</i> C.Cusset	A(i), A(iii), A(iv)	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	
<i>Leiothylax quangensis</i> (Engl.) Warm	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	

## IPA criterion C qualifying habitats

HABITAT	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	≥ 10% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	AREAL COVERAGE AT SITE
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## General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers, Streams, Creeks [includes waterfalls]	100	Major

## Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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## Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Natural system modifications - Dams & water management/use - Large dams	High	Ongoing - stable
Energy production & mining - Renewable energy	High	Ongoing - stable

## Bibliography

Ghogue, J.-P. 2010. *Winklerella dichotoma*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2010: e.T185552A8434624..

Ghogue, J.-P. 2010. *Dicraeanthus zehnderi*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2010: e.T185600A8444300.